



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

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Alabama Department of Labor Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that the Department has successfully prosecuted several Alabamians for unemployment compensation fraud. The following individuals were charged with violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law by making false statements in claims for benefits:

- Donnell M. Page, of Roanoke, was tried in Randolph County District Court on October 21, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Page received a total of \$4,511 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Page pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- James Thornhill, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on October 23, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Thornhill received a total of \$1,159 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Thornhill pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. He was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Pamela Burrell, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on October 23, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Long received a total of \$1,478 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Burrell pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended pending behavior of the defendant. She was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Benjamin Curtis, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on October 16, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Curtis received a total of \$1,455 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Curtis pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Jessie M. Robinson, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on October 2, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Robinson received a total of \$2,155 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Robinson pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Barry Ward, of Greensboro, was tried in Hale County District Court on September 4, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Ward received a total of \$1,019 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Ward pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Marvin Jones, of Moundville, was tried in Hale County District Court on September 18, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jones received a total of \$3,670 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Jones pled guilty and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Keith D. Hale, of Anniston, was tried in Calhoun County District Court on September 24, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hale received a total of \$10,209 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Hale pled guilty and was sentenced to 46 months in jail, which was suspended for five years pending restitution, and given five years of supervised probation. He was also fined \$250 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Marshall Kelly, of Goodwater, was tried in Talladega County District Court on November 6, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Kelly received a total of \$1,912 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Kelly pled guilty and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally. At the end of one year, Kelly will be sentenced based on the timeliness of his repayment.

- Kevin W. Bevels, of Sylacauga, was tried in Talladega County District Court on November 6, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Bevels received a total of \$1,933 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Bevels pled guilty and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally. At the end of ten months, Bevels will be sentenced based on the timeliness of his repayment.

- Antonio Jackson, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on October 23, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jackson received a total of \$5,012 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Jackson pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending behavior of the defendant. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Christopher J. Carter, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on October 29, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Carter received a total of \$1,571 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Carter pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for one year pending restitution and given one year of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Carolyn J. Holloway, of LaFayette, was tried in Chambers County District Court on October 15, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Holloway received a total of \$1,383 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Holloway pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended pending restitution. She was also fined \$350 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Anthony Baker, of Huntsville, was charged with Theft of Property in the 2nd degree and pled to Theft of Property in the 3rd degree at a preliminary hearing in Madison County Circuit Court on October 24, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Baker received a total of \$1,916 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Baker pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended, and placed

on probation. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“In these economic times, we want to make sure that all who are entitled to benefits receive them. But at the same time, we will not allow those who deliberately try to defraud the system to go unpunished,” said Surtees. “We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes. We would also like to remind employers that their timely reporting of new hires is one of the best tools we have to detect unemployment fraud. ”

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Alabama Department of Labor by calling 1-800-392-8019.

Employers may find more information regarding reporting new hires at <http://www.labor.alabama.gov/nh>.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.